

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 TRSE-00 /085 W

-----038582 021525Z /40

R 010611Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9341

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 7997

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY CELEBRATES REPUBLIC DAY

1. OCTOBER 29 TURKEY CELEBRATED THE 54TH ANNIVERSARY FO THE FOUNDING OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC. IN HIS REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE, PRESIDENT KORUTURK EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC. HE ASSERTED THAT THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY HAD NEVER BEFORE HAD THE SCOPE OF FREEDOMS THSU CURRENTLY ENJOY, BUT HE ASKED THE POEPL E TO GUARD AGAINST THE ABUSE OF THOSE FREEDOMS. HE SAID THAT THE PLURALISTIC DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY THAT THE TURKISH NATION HAD CHOSEN FOR ITSELF DID NOT MEAN THAT THE NATION SHOULD BE DIVIDED INTO OPPOSING CAMPS. HE SAID THAT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN ORDER TO NARROW THE GAP IN UNDERSTANDING. KORUTURK, WHO AS A FORMER NAVAL OFFICER IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE SECULARIST TRADITIONS OF ATATURK, ALSO URGED THE PEOPLE TO HEED THE ADVICE OF THE SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL WHICH HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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URGED THAT TURKISH CITIZENS NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF CHOLERA IN THE AREA.

2. PRESIDENT KORUTURK, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN REPUBLIC DAY CEREMONIES BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH, DID IN FACT PARTICIPATE IN A SCALED-DOWN CEREMONY WHICH

ACCOMODATED HIS NEED TO BE ON HIS FEET AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.

3. TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC DAY ACTIVITIES INCLUDED FOREIGN ATTENDANCE AT REPUBLIC DAY CEREMONIES AND MESSAGES FROM FOREIGN LEADERS. THE MOST PUBLICITY WAS ACCORDED LIBYAN HOUSING MINISTER MUHAMMED MANGUSH, WHO ARRIVED IN ANKARA OCTOBER 28, APPARENTLY WITH VERY LITTLE WARNING. MANGUSH WAS QUOTED ON HIS ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT AS SAYING THAT HE HAD COME TO TURKEY TO CELEBRATE "MY OWN HOLIDAY".

4. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES NOTED THAT HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES IHPXOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA ATTENDED TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY CEREMONIES. PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK ALSO APPEARED IN A FEW NEWSPAPERS. THE DECISION OF THE MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO TO DECLARE OCTOBER 29 "TURKEY DAY" AND TO FLY THE TURKISH FLAG FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL ALSO RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL RADIO AND PRESS ATTENTION.
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